[Mr. M. N. Pillai.]

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (1), (2) and (3) Government have received no report in the matter either from the Divisional Forest Officer or the Conservator of Forests.

(4) The Conservator of Forests says that no case of elephant-shooting by the registered holders of lands lying alongside the High Range road or by their servants has been reported.

Medical Examination of Retiring Officers.

175. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any particular person is appointed or asked to ascertain the physical fitness and other qualifications of retiring officers?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether officers are examined by a Medical Board before they are asked to retire or their service is extended?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): (*a*) and (*b*) In cases where officers retire voluntarily after 25 years of service or are retired after attaining 55 years of age, no opinion is required or taken in regard to their physical fitness for further service or efficiency. When, however, officers apply for invalid pension, medical opinion is obtained in regard to their physical fitness. The rules regarding the conduct of medical examination in such cases are contained in Articles 290, 330 *f* and 330 *k* of the Service Regulations. The service of officers who have attained 55 years is not extended unless the sanctioning authority satisfies itself that the officers concerned are physically and mentally quite fit to discharge their duties.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): With respect to the latter portion of the answer, may I know whether the sanctioning authority satisfies itself that officers are physically fit to discharge their duties by medical examination?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): No, not by medical examination.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Then, how do they know they are physically fit?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Because the officers under whom they work can see personally whether they are physically fit or not.

Excise Committee.

176. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons why they did not allow the Council to elect the non-official members to the Excise Committee as was done with regard to other committees?

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